

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /068 W

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R 060830Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7732

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID KS JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE AID TO KOREA

REF: TOKYO 16048

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUERY, JAPANESE EMBASSY (SECOND SECRETARY YABUNAKA) HAS EXPLAINED THAT ROKG-GOJ AID AGREEMENT SIGNED IN TOKYO DECEMBER 26 IS SPECIFIC LOAN AGREEMENT FOR ABOUT \$105 MILLION, OF WHICH \$65 MILLION FOR THREE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ("SAEMAUL") PROJECTS AND \$40 MILLION FOR TAECHONG DAM. THESE LOANS WILL BE COUNTED AGAINST 1972 COMMITMENT OF \$175-178 MILLION RESPONSIVE TO ROK REQUEST EARLIER SAME YEAR FOR \$200 MILLION IN AID. IMPLEMENTATION SLIPPED UNTIL NOW IN WAKE OF KIM DAE JUNG AFFAIR AND OTHER PROBLEMS. REMAINDER OF \$60-70 MILLION UNDER 1972 COMMITMENT WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD AND TREATED AS PART OF "NEW" JAPANESE AID TO KOREA.

2. "NEW" AID UNDER CONSIDERATION TOTALS \$125-130 MILLION. PUKPYONG HARBOR COSTING \$45 MILLION IS FARTEST ADVANCED PROJECT IN PACKAGE; FEASIBILITY STUDY IS COMPLETE. DOUBLETRACKING OF CHUNGPUK (35 MILLION) LOOKS PROMISING, AND FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL

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MILLION) LOOKS PROMISING, AND FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL

START SOON PERHAPS THIS MONTH. ROKG, ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY, IS PRESSING VERY HARD FOR \$50 MILLION IN COMMODITY LOANS, BUT GOJ WILL HAVE PROBLEM IN ACCEDING BECAUSE OF JAPANESE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSTRAINT AND RISK OF CRITICISM WITHIN JAPAN. BECAUSE KOREANS HAVE ONLY VAGUE IDEAS ABOUT HAN RIVER DAM, PROJECT IS TOO AMORPHOUS FOR GOJ TO CONSIDER AT THIS TIME.

3. ASIDE FROM ABOVE, \$1.8 MILLION (REPORTED BY PRESS AS \$1.6 MILLION) GRANT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED DECEMBER 27 FOR ASSISTANCE TO ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. THIS IS FIRST INSTALLMENT OF PLANNED TOTAL OF \$8-12 MILLION IN MULTIYEAR SERIES OF GRANTS TO ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL00028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750004-0998
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750175/aaaacofk.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 16048
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE AID TO KOREA
TAGS: EAID, KS, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006